

# Washburn School Board addresses eligibility, enrollment matters

Policy changes, staffing updates highlight March 16 meeting

BY KELLI AMELING  
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

The Washburn School Board approved changes to student eligibility requirements, reviewed district finances and accepted multiple resignations during its regular meeting March 16.

The meeting, which the district had minutes published in the April 23 edition of the *LeaderNews*, was called to order at 8:01 p.m. Board members Rick Tweeten, Sandi Erber, Aaron Solomonson, Luke Retterath, Jada Holznagel, Stacey Scheresky and Brooklyn Schaan were present, along with Superintendent Penny VeitHetletved and district administrators.

The board approved the meeting agenda with the omission of the March 16 finance committee notes and added items related to open enrollment and the finance committee. Board members also approved minutes from five prior meetings held in February and early March.

During the financial report, officials noted activity accounts had spent 70.15% of the budget to date,

while student transportation spending stood at 67.4%. The general fund was reported at 66.11% spent. Food service expenditures totaled \$14,438.68 for February. The building fund levied \$336,256 for the year, with \$136,389.24 obligated and \$199,866.73 unobligated.

The board approved payment of bills, including expenses related to utilities, professional services, supplies and staffing.

No public comment was offered during the designated public input period.

A previously tabled eligibility motion was revisited but failed after a motion to remove it from the table was defeated. Later in the meeting, the board approved a change to extracurricular eligibility requirements. Under the new policy, any student in grades 7–12 who has a failing grade in any class will be deemed ineligible for extracurricular activities.

In the superintendent's report, VeitHetletved noted \$265 in restitution had been paid through juvenile justice for graffiti damage at the school. Fitness center usage and financial statistics were also reviewed.

District staffing updates included three retirements and four resignations for the year. Administrative roles were adjusted, with Christina Reynolds assigned as principal for PreK4 and special education, while Beau Eriksson will serve as principal for grades 512. Counselors, the technology coordinator and bus drivers will be supervised by the superintendent.

Enrollment has increased by 16% over the past four years, VeitHetletved reported. She also noted a contract has been signed with Dalton Wheeler for an agriculture teaching position and that offers have been made for open math positions.

The board was informed that four students have required psychiatric placements since January, with the district responsible for associated tutoring costs.

A draft budget was presented, and officials announced that the donor wall is ready to be ordered.

Reynolds reported state assessments would begin at the high school the following week, with testing continuing through midApril. Spring FastBridge screenings are scheduled

for midApril through May, and guest speakers are planned for both elementary and secondary students.

Eriksson reported Washburn students will participate in Acalympics in Linton and that the Sidney Impaired Driving Experience was recently presented. The end of the third quarter determined valedictorian, salutatorian and honor cord recipients.

Open enrollment applications were reviewed, with approvals granted for students from Underwood in grades 3, 7 and 11 and from Hazen in grade 5. A PreK application from Center was denied due to program capacity. The board also received notice that a Washburn firstgrade student has open enrolled to Hazen.

The board accepted the resignations of Melissa Rothe, Kimberly Toepke and Rachel Hochhalter and acknowledged the retirement of Laura Tweeten. Teachers' contracts for the 202627 school year were approved as presented.

Evaluations for the business manager and superintendent were also presented, with the board approving the superintendent's evaluation.

# Wilton School Board takes action on facilities, calendar

Redwood agreement approved; personnel resignation accepted

BY KELLI AMELING  
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The Wilton Public School Board approved an agreement for use of the Redwood building, adjusted the 202627 school calendar and accepted a staff resignation during its regular meeting March 25.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. at the Wilton High School cafeteria. Board members Jessica Oswald, Kylee Schuh, Jesse Biesterfeld, Troy Speten and Jason Gregoryk were present, along with Superintendent Andrew Jordan and district administrators.

The board approved the agenda with the addition of a personnel item under new business and later approved the consent agenda, which included minutes from the Feb. 18 governance committee meeting and regular board meeting.

During the financial report, officials reviewed multiple fund balances. The general fund reported revenues of \$540,639.98, expenditures of \$371,781.66 and a balance of \$1,899,773.46. The building fund showed revenues of \$828,141.26, expenditures of \$782,975.90 and a balance of \$489,006.29. The

hot lunch fund balance stood at \$64,787.87, while the co-curricular fund reported a balance of \$242,317.96.

No public comment was offered.

Athletic Director Trevor Yetterboe reported on spring activities and participation numbers, noting strong turnout for elementary volleyball and boys basketball. Softball began March 16 with 31 students participating across grades 712. He also reported four archers qualified individually for nationals following the state tournament in Minot.

Yetterboe said varsity boys basketball finished the season narrowly missing state qualification, while the girls team endured injuries late in the year. Track began Feb. 23, though participation numbers were not yet finalized.

There was discussion on weight room usage requirements for students and community members. Jordan said he will follow up on a plan that includes a waiver, insurance considerations and an introductory weight training class as a prerequisite.

Principals reported strong attendance at studentled conferences, with 97% attendance at the elementary

level and 96% at the secondary level. Preschool screenings were held Feb. 24, and spring evaluations are underway. March was designated as Reading Month, featuring themed activities and events.

Jordan reported the district's Strategic Priority No. 1, Academic Success, will be reviewed in April, and the board selfevaluation survey will be distributed in May. He also noted he serves as presidentelect of the North Dakota Association of School Administrators and may attend a state leaders conference in Atlanta later this spring.

In unfinished business, Jordan provided an update on the building project, with completion expected in April. Ongoing boiler issues are being reviewed by multiple contractors, and work remains in the high school science room.

The board approved an agreement for use of the Redwood building between the Wilton Public School District and the Wilton Food Bank. Electrical upgrades at the facility are estimated to cost between \$5,000 and \$8,000, and the possibility of shared costs and grant funding is being explored.

Under new business, the

board approved a report on Strategic Priority No. 5, Operational Efficiency, and approved two preschool open enrollment applications for the 202627 school year. Calendar adjustments were also approved, including moving a September professional

development day to Oct. 5 and shifting an early dismissal date in February.

The board accepted the resignation of middle school AVID teacher Hailey Beauclair, effective at the end of the 202526 school year.

## Ladies Night Out


### "I am the One"


Washburn United Methodist Church

Friday, May 8th  
Doors Open: 5:30pm  
Dinner/Program: 6pm

A Night of:  
Food,  
Conversation,  
Fun.  
Presentation by  
Project 31:8

RSVP required  
Use the QR Code  
below or  
contact Jo  
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